AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0063] with the following amended paragraph:

[0063] Figure 17 provides a flow chart 520 describing a process for checking whether a grace period or license lockout is in progress. In one embodiment, the steps of Figure 17 are performed by DBBL 104. In another embodiment, the method of Figure 17 is called by each of steps 427, 433, and 438 of Figure 14. At step 522, DBBL 104 determines whether a grace period is in progress. In one embodiment, this is determined by checking the value of grace period clock 108. If the value of grace period clock 108 is greater than zero, then a grace period is assumed to be in progress. If so, BDDL 104 resets the grace period clock 108 in step 524, thus terminating the grace period. In one embodiment, this grace period clock 108 is reset to a null value. On the other hand, if the value of the grace period clock 108 found in step 522 is not greater than zero, then DBBL 104 determines that no grace period is in progress requiring termination. DBBL 104 then proceeds to step 526. At step 526, DBBL 104 determines whether a license lockout is currently in progress. In one embodiment, DBBL 104 checks a locklut flag internal to the DBBL process 104 in step 522. If the flag is set, a lockout is assumed to be in progress. In response, DBBL 104 terminates the license lockout (step 528), as further described herein. Otherwise, the method proceeds to step 530 where it returns to Figure ~~13~~ 14.